

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service discovery protocol server for discovering a service provided by an apparatus using a service discovery protocol, from another apparatus using a service discovery protocol different from said service discovery protocol, said server comprising;

a common database for storing service information on a plurality of service discovery protocols, written in a common format; and

a handler means for handling one of said plurality of service discovery protocols, said handler means including a conversion means for mutually converting service information between a format used in said one service discovery protocol handled in this handler means and said common format.

2. A server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said service information is defined for each service attribute, and wherein said conversion means converts said service information between one service attribute of said handler means and another service attribute of said common database, said one service attribute having the same semantic description as said another service attribute.

3. A server as claimed in claim 2, wherein said service attribute includes a service name, a vender name, a location

and a service discovery protocol handler name.

4. A server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said handler means includes a service discovery protocol control means, a communication protocol control means and a communication means.